



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Policy No.: DOC 4.5.37	Subject: <b>IMMUNIZATION FOR HEPATITIS A AND B</b>
Chapter 4: FACILITY/PROGRAM SERVICES	Page 1 of 2
Section 5: Health Care	Revision Date: July 20, 2001
Signature: /s/ Bill Slaughter	Effective Date: Aug. 1, 1997

**I. POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Montana Department of Corrections to protect Hepatitis C positive offenders from the health consequences of becoming infected with Hepatitis A or B through immunizations against these two viruses.

**II. IMPLEMENTATION:**

This policy will be implemented upon the effective date of signature.

**III. AUTHORITY:**

53-1-203, MCA. Powers and Duties of Department of Corrections

National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards

**IV. DEFINITIONS:**

**HEPATITIS A** means an acute viral hepatitis caused by a highly infectious RNA picornavirus that is transmitted primarily by the fecal-oral route. Hepatitis A has mild to fulminant acute clinical presentation that does not progress to a chronic disease state.

**HEPATITIS B** means an acute or chronic viral hepatitis caused by a DNA virus transmitted perinatally, through blood exposure, and sexual contact. Hepatitis B has a self-limited to fulminant acute clinical presentation with approximately 10% of cases progressing to chronic hepatitis.

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**HEPATITIS C** means an acute or chronic viral hepatitis caused by a RNA virus that is transmitted primarily by parenteral contact with blood.

#### **V. PROCEDURES:**

1. Overall responsibility for the statewide Hepatitis C database will be with the Clinical Computer Specialist at the Montana State Prison.
2. Each facility will develop procedures to ensure that data is documented in accordance with Health Services policy 4.5.37, Immunization of Hepatitis A and B.
3. Hepatitis C positive offenders will receive immunizations for Hepatitis A and B in accordance with Health Services Policy 4.5.37, Immunization of Hepatitis A and B.
4. Department policy 4.5.32, Right to Refuse Medical Treatment, will apply if the offender refuses immunization.

#### **VI. CLOSING:**

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Department Health Services Manager.